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Message from the President

Taking on 2019: Expanding Committees, Facing New Challenges

What a great year we've had, here at the Ontario Building Envelope Council (OBEC), and with more good things to come. One of the biggest changes for the board is that we are no longer managing the Building Science Specialist designation. A new non-profit organization, the Building Science Specialist Board, has been created exclusively to manage this, which was previously a part of OBEC's mandate. This was done to allow the designation to be offered to building scientists across Canada, and while I understand they're working through a few expected hiccups, things are looking very positive. As far as our members and current BSS designation holders are concerned, impact on you will be minimal. The name of the designation has changed from Building Science Specialist of Ontario (BSSO) to simply Building Science Specialist (BSS), and maintenance reporting will be through the BSS Board instead of OBEC, but OBEC will still be offering the same great content to help our members keep their knowledge up-to-date.

With the creation of this new organization as their elected terms expired, Paul Pushman and Marianne Touchie have not sought re-election to OBEC, rather using their resources and experience to help get the BSSB organization off the ground—thank you both for your hard work with OBEC over the years. We wish you good

luck in the future. With these two openings on the board, we've welcomed two new board members: Gauss Wong and Michael Rekker. Gauss previously served on our board and takes on the role of chair of the Awards & Scholarships Committee, while Michael is our new chair of the Codes & Standards Committee. Mila Aleksic, Meagan Kikuta, and Robert Quattrociochi were re-elected to the board, and, respectively chair our Education, Communications, and Events Committees. Marco Guzzo remains on the board in his dual roles of past-president and chair of the Membership Committee. Mark Clyde continues in the second year of his term as board member and chair of the Technical Committee, and Alen Vrabec will finish his term, continuing as our secretary / treasurer. Ehab Naim Ibrahim takes on the role of Awards Committee chair and has also been elected by the board as president-elect, to take on OBEC's leadership this fall when my term is complete. Congratulations to all on our board, and thank you for the support you give our organization.

This past year, we saw the OBEC scholarships awarded for a second time. A big congratulations are in order for Anna Farbis, our undergraduate scholarship winner, who is finalizing her degree at the University of Toronto, and Jelena Madzarovic, our graduate scholarship winner whose

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work at Ryerson University included a study of the thermal conductivity of closed cell foam insulation materials and the effects of temperature and aging in addition to different chemical formulations. OBEC's board in 2018 also voted to induct my colleague, Jerry Genge, as an OBEC Fellow. Jerry was one of OBEC's founding members, is a past president of OBEC (twice-over), and he has contributed greatly to the organization over the years in a variety of different roles. We were proud to welcome Jerry into OBEC's community of Fellows.

It looks like 2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year as well. We are expanding our committees and taking on a whole range of new challenges. If you want to get involved, please contact us at info@obec.on.ca. We have some exciting seminars planned for this year as well. Already lined up are a few great speakers, including Barbara Ross, Steve Kemp, and Joe Lstiburek, among others. We're taking a look at changing the format of our technical discussion groups to make them more inclusive, so keep an eye out for these changes, which will be coming soon. All in all, it's shaping up to be a great year for OBEC and our members.

This issue of *Pushing the Envelope Canada* has a great lineup of articles as well. To kick things off, we take an in-depth look at how a small, silicon-based solid could be making a huge difference in the building envelope. Rashmi Sharma and Dr. Umberto Berardi, Ryerson University, explore aerogel, a transparent, insulating and lightweight material that is 1,000 times less dense than glass and is a very effective insulator (39 times more so than fibreglass), making it a possible gamechanger when it comes to thermal bridging. Flip to page 17 to read their

thoughts on using aerogel-enhanced blankets for thermal bridging correction in concrete and steel buildings.

On page 23, Morrison Hershfield's Peter Adams discusses fenestration systems and how they can be adversely affected by a combination of things, like the design, fabrication, and/or installation by inexperienced or unqualified installers. Adams likens rain-screen fenestration systems to plumbing, in that having more water in a piping system than it is capable of properly draining will lead to back-ups and an unhappy owner.

David Wach and Vladimir Maleev, Engineering Link Inc., take a closer look at condensation potential in conventional and hybrid roof assemblies in their article on page 27. This feature explores how hygro-thermal simulations offer comparisons on the performance of both conventional and hybrid roof assemblies. It also looks at other factors, including limitations, long-term durability, expected service life, and ease of maintenance and repair.

On page 31, Bomani Khemet, University of Toronto, and Russell Richman, Ryerson University, break down the ins and outs of estimating preconstruction airtightness in Ontario. The authors discuss air leakage trends from a national sample

of more than 900,000 homes and consider how having a regional airtightness modeling methodology in place could be an important factor when it comes to increasing airtightness in the design phase.

There is an important relationship between mechanical and building envelope commissioning. On page 36, Zacharie Doerr and Paul Frasier, Pinchin Ltd., delve into everything you want to know—the what, why, who and when—of building commissioning and how you can ensure all building systems are installed, calibrated, and perform interactively according to the owner's project requirements and operational needs.

We hope you enjoy the array of articles we've curated for this edition of *Pushing the Envelope Canada*. If you're interested in contributing to a future edition of the publication, please reach out to Meagan Kikuta, chair of the Communications Committee, at mkikuta@tremco.ca with an idea for consideration and to get more details on submission guidelines and the types of features we're looking for.

With that, I would like to thank all of our members. You are what makes OBEC such a great organization and you make me proud to be a part of it. ■

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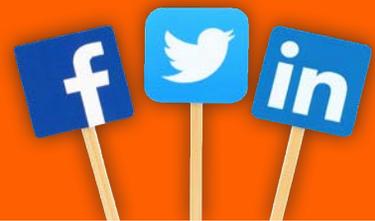
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